

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A complete listing of all claims in the application is provided below with the requested amendments marked.

1. (currently amended) Method for digitally upgrading ~~a substrate, in particular a textile articles~~, using an upgrading device, the device comprising a number of nozzles for applying one or more substances to the textile articles, in addition to a conveyor for transporting the textile articles past ~~along~~ the nozzles, wherein the nozzles are ordered in a number of successively placed rows extending transversely of the transporting direction of the textile article, the method comprising the steps of:

a) affixing a first textile article to the conveyor to substantially prevent relative movement therebetween;

~~—b) guiding the first textile article ~~along past~~ a first row of nozzles;~~

~~—c) performing with the first row of nozzles one of the operations of painting, printing, coating or finishing of the first textile article carried ~~therealongtherepast~~;~~

~~—d) subsequently guiding the first textile article ~~along past~~ a second row of nozzles;~~
and

~~—e) performing with the second row of nozzles another of the operations of painting, printing, coating or finishing of the first textile article carried ~~therealongtherepast~~; and~~

repeating steps a to e for a second textile article wherein the operation carried out in step c) or e) is different for the first and second articles.

2. (currently amended) Method as claimed in claim 1, comprising of painting the first or second textile article with a first row of nozzles, subsequently coating the painted textile article with a second row of nozzles and finally finishing the coated textile article with a third row of nozzles.

3. (currently amended) Method as claimed in claim 1, comprising of coating the first or second textile article with a first row of nozzles, subsequently finishing the coated textile article with a second row of nozzles.

4. (currently amended) Method as claimed in claim 1, comprising of printing the first or second textile article with a first row of nozzles, subsequently coating the printed textile article with a second row of nozzles and finally finishing the coated textile article with a third row of nozzles.

5. (currently amended) Method as claimed in ~~any of the foregoing claims~~claim 1, applied in a device of the continuous inkjet and multi-level deflection type, the method comprising the steps of:

- feeding substance to the nozzles in almost continuous flows;
- breaking up the continuous flows in the nozzles to form respective droplet jets;
- electrically charging or discharging the droplets;
- applying an electric field;
- ~~varying the electric field so as to deflect~~ deflecting the droplets with the electric field such that they are deposited at suitable positions on the first or second textile article.

6. (original) Method as claimed in claim 5, comprising of generating per nozzle at least 100,000 droplets per second.

7. (currently amended) Method as claimed in ~~any of the foregoing claims~~claim 1, comprising of applying substances from two or more successively placed rows of nozzles per treatment step of printing, painting, coating or finishing.

8. (currently amended) Method as claimed in claim 7, comprising of arranging ~~successively~~in any order, a cyan-coloured substance, a magenta-coloured substance, a yellow-coloured substance and a black substance ~~in random sequence~~ in at least four successive rows of nozzles.

9. (original) Method as claimed in claim 7, comprising of arranging a substance of a mixed colour in at least four rows of nozzles.

10. (currently amended) Method as claimed in ~~any of the foregoing claims~~claim 1, wherein the treatment step of painting comprises of applying the substance substantially uniformly over the width of the textile article.

11. (currently amended) Method as claimed in ~~any of the foregoing claims~~claim 1, wherein the treatment of the first or second textile article comprises printing of the textile article in addition to painting, coating and/or finishing.

12. (original) Method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the treatment step of printing comprises of applying one or more patterns of the substance to the textile article.

13. (currently amended) Method as claimed in ~~any of the foregoing claims~~claim 1, wherein the treatment step of coating the first or second article comprises of applying ~~the a~~ substance in a thin layer to the surface of the textile article.

14. (currently amended) Method as claimed in ~~any of the foregoing claims~~claim 1, wherein the treatment step of finishing the first or second textile article comprises of changing the physical properties of a substance previously applied to the textile article.

15. (currently amended) Method as claimed in claim 14, wherein ~~a the~~ treatment step comprises of irradiating the textile article with infrared radiation.

16. (cancelled)

17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) Method as claimed in ~~any of the foregoing claims~~claim 1, comprising of directing the individual nozzles with a central control.

19. (currently amended) Method as claimed in ~~any of the foregoing claims~~claim 1, comprising of transporting the first or second textile article along nozzles placed on either side of the textile article for double-sided upgrading thereof.

20. (currently amended) Method as claimed in ~~any of the foregoing claims~~claim 1, comprising of painting the substance in one process run.

21. (currently amended) Method as claimed in ~~any of the foregoing claims~~claim 1, comprising of ~~applying~~ coating and finishing ~~the substances~~substances in one process run.

22. (currently amended) Method as claimed in ~~any of the foregoing claims~~claim 1, comprising of ~~applying~~ painting, coating and finishing ~~the substances~~substances in one process run.

23. (currently amended) Device for upgrading ~~a-textile articles according to the method as claimed in any of the foregoing claims~~, the device comprising;

a number of stationary nozzles for applying one or more substances to the textile articles;

a conveyor for transporting the textile articles past ~~along~~ the nozzles, wherein the nozzles are ordered in a number of successively placed rows extending transversely of the transporting direction of the textile articles;

an affixing system for affixing the textile article to the conveyor to substantially prevent relative movement therebetween; and

a control unit for controlling operation of the device;

so that when in use the device can operate in a method comprising the steps of;

a) affixing a first textile article to the conveyor to substantially prevent relative movement therebetween;

b) guiding the first textile article past a first row of nozzles;

c) performing with the first row of nozzles one of the operations of painting, printing, coating or finishing of the first textile article carried therepast;

d) subsequently guiding the first textile article past a second row of nozzles;

e) performing with the second row of nozzles another of the operations of painting, printing, coating or finishing of the first textile article carried therepast; and

repeating steps a to e for a second textile article wherein the operation carried out in step c) or e) is different for the first and second articles.

24. (cancelled)

25. (new) Method for digitally upgrading a textile article, using an upgrading device, the device comprising a continuous multi-level deflection type inkjet device having a number of nozzles for applying one or more substances to the textile article, in addition to a conveyor for transporting the textile article along the nozzles, wherein the nozzles are ordered in a number of successively placed rows extending transversely of the transporting direction of the textile article, the method comprising the steps of:

- guiding a textile article along a first row of nozzles;
- performing with the first row of nozzles one of the operations of painting, printing, coating or finishing of the textile article carried therealong;

- subsequently guiding the textile along a second row of nozzles; and
- performing with the second row of nozzles another of the operations of painting, printing, coating or finishing of the textile article carried therealong; wherein painting, printing, coating or finishing comprises the steps of:

- feeding substance to the nozzles in almost continuous flows;
- breaking up the continuous flows in the nozzles to form respective droplet jets;
- electrically charging or discharging the droplets;
- applying an electric field;
- deflecting the droplets with the electric field such that they are deposited at suitable positions on the textile article.

26. (new) Method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second textile article is a downstream portion of the same article as the first article.